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KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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City targeting conflict of interest

PLAN PITCHED

Push to screen third-party contracts with ex-employees



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

The city is outlining new rules to prevent potential conflicts of interest, after an ex-city employee — contracted to oversee what became a disastrous sand-recycling program — put the issue into focus last fall.

A report going to executive committee Tuesday details how administration will require potential contractors to tell the city if they have former city employees who might be directly working on projects they're bidding for.

Dan Lajeunesse, branch manager with city corporate procurement and supply services, said the new measures will determine if conflicts of interest are present.

"We spend over \$1 billion per year in tax dollars through contracting process, and there's a duty for us to ensure we're getting the best value for the taxpayer," he said. "It's making sure our citizens

have confidence in the decisions the city makes."

In September, council tasked administration for more information on legislating a "cooling off" period for ex-employees. Essentially that would mean a required amount of time before former workers can be contracted to do work for Edmonton.

Council's direction came after a scathing audit found a city street-sand recycling program was mismanaged and didn't deliver the millions in cost savings it had promised.

The contractor, who was hired to recycle road sand, was an ex-city employee.

"I believe that this is an exception," Lajeunesse said. "We've recognized that and we're taking steps to mitigate that from happening in the future."

If councillors approve the plan, the cooling-off period could be between six and 12 months.

The city may also look at each submission on a case-by-case basis, which means ex-employees who are listed on the contract may not be automatically disqualified. If there is a conflict, the city will determine if it can be mitigated.

Administration plans to have the new screening process up and working by the end of June.

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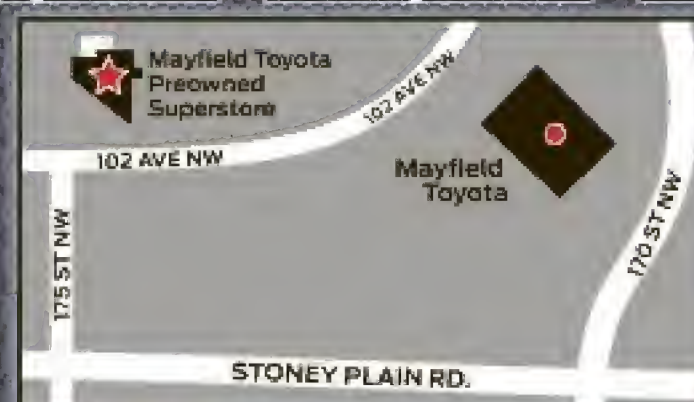
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Take a road trip and chill

CLIMATE

Collection of Canadian Arctic ice cores come to city



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Sitting inside a shipping container pulled by a truck idling in Ottawa traffic Thursday were some of Canada's oldest climate records — finally on their way to their new home in Edmonton.

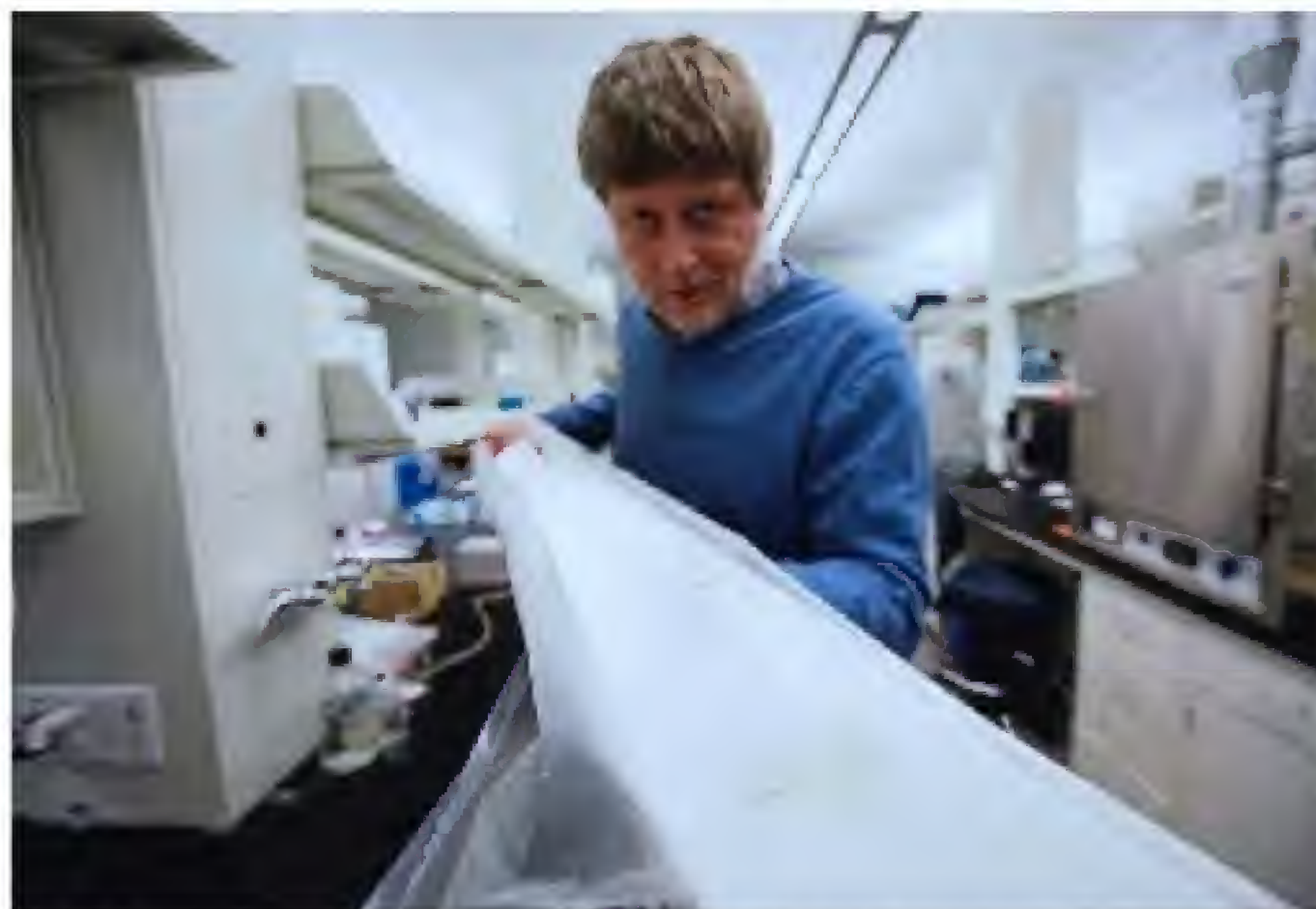
After almost two years of planning, the world's biggest collection of ice cores from the Canadian Arctic is on its way to the University of Alberta.

"At last they're off, it's been awhile," said glaciologist Martin Sharp, one of the researchers at the University of Alberta who's pushed to have the ice cores preserved and moved from their old Ottawa location to two new custom-built freezers on the U of A campus.

If laid end to end, the 12 cores in the collection would be longer than 1.5 kilometres.

The oldest samples date back into the last Ice Age, and by trapping ancient samples of things like air bubbles and microbes, they offer some of the best clues we have to the prehistoric Arctic environment.

They're also increasingly rare: Sharp said that because of the recent warming of the Arctic much of the ice is de-



Martin Sharp holds one of the ice cores the University of Alberta currently has — a sample much smaller than the ones currently enroute. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

grading, meaning scientists can no longer take samples in some areas.

Some of the ice cores in the collection are from sheets of ice that have now almost totally melted away, taking their secrets with them.

Technology is also improving, meaning even well-studied cores remain a source of new information.

"You can see now what's happening in the environment at a much higher resolution," Sharp said. "So whereas before you could maybe tell the difference between winter and summer, now you can sometimes

You can see now what's happening in the environment.

Martin Sharp

tell individual weather events." But while researchers are keen to get their hands on the samples, there is still a five-day journey ahead of them.

To make sure the ancient samples stay frozen in their truck, kept at at least -18 degrees, Jeff Kavanaugh, an associate professor in earth and

atmospheric sciences, built a monitoring system, complete with a GPS and cellular uplink. It sends texts every hour with the location of the truck and the temperature inside the container.

It also tweets periodically, so you can follow the truck's 3,400km trip to Edmonton at @IceCoreTracker1

Sharp said he's just looking forward to the samples finally arriving, safely.

"It will be nice when we start actually getting to do the science, rather than the planning for it, because that's what we want to do."

CLOSER LOOK



1 Mount Logan: This core wins for being hard to get: researchers drilled 186 metres into the icefield on Canada's tallest mountain in 2001. It's oldest layer is about 17,700 years old.

2 Meighen Icecap: This was the first ice core ever drilled in the Canadian Arctic, back in 1965. The ice here is now almost totally gone, making the core, and what it can tell scientists, irreplaceable.

3 Penny Ice Cap: Drilled in 1995-96, this is the oldest ice core in the collection. At 334 metres long, the oldest layer is thought to be about 80,000 years old and may be a relic of the ice sheet that covered Canada in the Last Glaciation.

RICHARD SUTER

Top court agrees to hear appeal

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear the appeal of an Edmonton man who crashed his SUV onto a restaurant patio, killing a toddler.

Richard Suter was initially sentenced to four months in jail along with a 30-month driving suspension after he pleaded guilty to failing to provide a breath sample in a death. But the Alberta Court of Appeal raised the sentence to 26 months.

Court heard the retired businessman, who was 62, had been arguing with his wife while parking his vehicle in front of a Kie's Grill in southwest Edmonton in May 2013, and mistakenly hit the gas instead of the brake.

Two-year-old Geo Mounsef was having dinner with his parents and baby brother when the SUV pinned him against a wall.

Suter testified at his sentencing hearing that he had three drinks over four hours before the crash, but wasn't drunk. The sentencing judge agreed that Suter wasn't impaired and was given bad legal advice to refuse a breathalyzer test.

Suter's trial lawyer, Dino Bottos, is arguing that the Appeal Court erred on several grounds, including that it found Suter shouldn't get a lower sentence because he relied on faulty legal advice. The Supreme Court, as usual, did not give reasons for deciding to hear the appeal.

Bottos said it's rare for the high court to hear sentence appeals and he's asking it to restore Suter's original sentence of four months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Buildings, not lots, man pleads

URBAN PLANNING

Development better than illegal parking, he argues



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Alf White would rather see buildings, not illegal surface parking.

And that's why one bit of information upsets him so: That within the sea of surface parking in the Quarters, only one lot has a permit to operate legally.

"Some buildings come down and then the space they were in is just sitting empty," said White, president of the Boyle Street Community League (not speaking on behalf of the board

of directors).

"The parking lots that are there now have been there for some time. It's frustrating."

Mary Ann Debrinski, director of urban renewal with city administration, told Metro Thursday that of the 1,300 parking stalls in the Quarters, there's only one lot that actually has the right to operate legally.

Debrinski couldn't say how many lots in total are in the Quarters.

"I really, really want to see highrise development (in the Quarters)," she said.

"We're working on it. We could go in there in full force and blast all those cars out of there. It would be a lot of effort, but we have to be cognizant of the economy."

"Dealing with what's happening on the land just doesn't make it feasible for a developer to come in and build a high-



Alf White says he's frustrated to see so many vacant lots in the Quarters. He'd rather see development.

KEVIN TUONG / FOR METRO

rise."

Debrinski said the only legal lot — which faces Jasper Avenue — was allowed because it won a Court of Queens Bench ruling to operate surface parking.

Coun. Scott McKeen said surface lots are a "drain on vibrancy," but noted the city must strike a balance.

"We don't want to take away everyone's parking — that would be ridiculous," he said.

"You want to see surface parking absorbed by development."

Debrinski said the city is also working on a new surface parking strategy, which will be outlined in a few months.

"We have taken steps where we will not allow surface parking on city land within the Quarters," Debrinski said.

Two surface lots in the Quarters also stopped operating after the city told them they weren't allowed, she added.

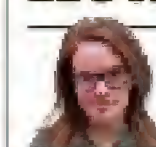


We're working on it. We could go in there in full force and blast all those cars out of there.

Mary Ann Debrinski

BENEFITS

Big boost for mental health



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta psychologists are applauding several companies that are increasing mental health coverage for their staff.

This week, Manulife announced that its 9,000 Canadian employees will now be eligible for a \$10,000 mental-health benefit each year. And the Psychologists' Association of Alberta said Manulife is following similar investments by the federal government and corporate giants like Starbucks.

The federal government doubled their mental-health benefit to \$2,500 in 2013, and Starbucks increased theirs from \$400 to \$5,000 last year.

"It's very big news," said Edmonton registered psychologist Dr. Ganz Ferrance. "It's good for the economy, but more importantly its good for people's state of well being."

The Association said while there are plenty of psychologists in the province, many people can't afford treatment.

Fresh Start to a New Year



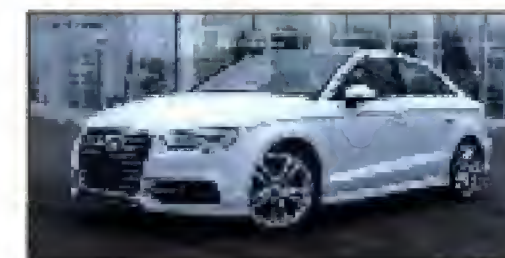
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COURT

Foreign engineer's appeal dismissed

An Alberta court has dismissed an appeal application by a foreign-trained man who wanted to work in the province as an engineer.

Ladislav Mihaly, who was educated in the former Czechoslovakia, had been seeking to register with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta.

The association required Mihaly to write exams to confirm his credentials, but after failing tests he filed a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

In 2014, a human rights tribunal ruled the tests were discriminatory and ordered the association to reconsider Mihaly's application and pay him \$10,000 in damages.

Last January, an Alberta Court of Queen's Bench judge reversed the tribunal's deci-

sion, saying the ruling was based on errors and was unreasonable.

Mihaly filed an appeal, but the Alberta Court of Appeal dropped it in June when he failed to follow up.

In a ruling released Thursday, Justice Frans Slatter of the Appeal Court dismissed Mihaly's application made in December to restore his appeal.

"As far as the merits of the appeal, the appellant does not point to any patent error on the face of the decision under appeal," Slatter wrote.

"Even Canadian educational institutions must demonstrate the equivalency of their programs, and Canadians who receive foreign training must also demonstrate equivalency."

Mihaly could not be reached for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Man banned from having pets charged

An Alberta man who police say was under several court orders not to own animals is facing several animal cruelty charges.

Redwater RCMP say it and Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals went into a residence in Sturgeon County on Dec. 15.

They found nine pit bulls in kennels in various stages of medical distress — some had injuries to their faces and legs and had signs of being malnourished, while one was found dead outside. Edmonton Humane Society officers brought the animals to its shelter.

Justin Lawrence Iverson, 30, of Edmonton, is charged with five counts of cruelty to animals and five counts of causing injury to animals.

He is to appear in court in Fort Saskatchewan on Feb. 16.

Redwater Mounties had been asked to check the residence by Edmonton police to see if the man was abiding by several court orders not to own or possess animals.

When they got to the house, no one was home, but they could hear dogs whining and barking inside. Officers also said there were large amounts of animal feces on the front and back porch of the residence.

"There was concern for the dogs that could be heard inside the residence," Cpl. Ronald Bumbry, RCMP Media Relations Officer, East Alberta District, said in a news release.

"As a result a search warrant was executed." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Edmonton's home prices are falling more sharply than the rest of Canada, according to a new report from Royal LePage.

FILE PHOTO

Home-prices dip the sharpest in country

HOUSING

Market should start to recover later this year, says local agent



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton is an odd duck in Canada's housing market, and also a lame one.

The city's housing prices slipped once more in the final quarter of 2016, making its annual decline sharper than any

other Canadian city, according to a new report from Royal LePage.

In most other cities, house prices climbed in 2016.

"Everywhere else across the country, with the exception of the prairie provinces, has probably had one of the best years in real estate in a really long time," said agent Tom Shearer.

Shearer said it's not that bad, though — the aggregate house price in the Edmonton region dropped 2.1 per cent year-over-year, to \$378,247, but that price is higher than 2011 when the city was recovering from the 2008 recession.

Edmonton also weathered the storm much better than most



It's not like we're seeing house values falling off a cliff.

Tom Shearer

cities did in 2015, when Calgary had a particularly rough year for housing prices.

"It's not like we're seeing house values falling off a cliff or anything like that," Shearer said.

The odd duck stuff? Bungalows dropped more than any other housing type in Edmonton, by 2.7 per cent year-over-year, while nationally the price

of a bungalow grew by 12.5 per cent.

Shearer said that figure will start to even out as Edmonton's downtown gentrifies.

"Here in Edmonton, we have a lot of land to grow out to and some of our inner-city neighbourhoods are still kind of in the gentrification stage, whereas that's already happened in other parts of the country," he said.

Shearer expects condo prices — down 1.9 per cent from 2015 — to keep struggling, after a 2014 construction boom left the city with a glut of condos.

Overall, he expects Edmonton's housing prices to start recovering in late 2017.



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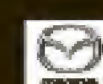
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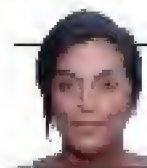
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No bus, maybe more shuttles

TRANSIT

Officials mull far-flung Greyhound terminal



Pusha Balgobin
For Metro | Edmonton

While officials say it's unlikely Edmonton Transit will create bus routes that service the far-flung Greyhound bus terminal, both the city and the bus company acknowledge it's possible to expand drop-off and pickup services for passengers.

The issue has come to a head as recent frigid temperatures, a lack of sidewalks and no transit connection at the new Greyhound terminal has seen some walking ankle-deep in the snow along busy 121 Street in order to catch a bus, nearly one kilometre away.

Jennifer Laraway, spokesperson for Edmonton Transit, told Metro News that the city and Greyhound are discussing how to work cohesively



A man walks from the Greyhound bus terminal along the side of 121 Street, where there is no sidewalk, in order to find a transit bus downtown on Thursday. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

to expand options for coach passengers.

"We are still collaborating," Laraway said. "The idea is that they would run a shuttle directly door-to-door transport service. We would work out who will provide those services,

what does that service look like, who is contributing to it? Those discussions remain ongoing."

Laraway said Greyhound's current isolated location, at the VIA Rail station at 12360 121 St., means it's unlikely there would be 30 passenger board-

ings per hour to justify a new bus route, which is currently the minimum requirement.

She added that bus pads, sidewalks and other necessary infrastructure are not at the location, which would mean additional costs for the city to



We are still collaborating. The idea is that Greyhound would run a shuttle directly door-to-door transport service.

Jennifer Laraway,
Edmonton Transit

offer transit there.

Greyhound spokesperson Allison Morrison said, in an email, that the two sides are still discussing options.

"We continue to work closely with Edmonton Transit for additional passengers drops and pickups as well as work with the city in regarding[sic] to their Kingsway Transit Centre for additional drops and pickups. In addition, we also have full service taxi stands located for customers' convenience."

Morrison added that since its relocation in June the company has provided shuttle service to the station from the downtown Welcome Centre.

ASYLUM

Somali community prepares for refugees

The Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton is taking steps to prepare for any potential refugees fleeing the United States.

Fear of political instability in the United States is likely to push more refugees to seek asylum in Canada by fleeing across the porous border in the prairies, according to Jibril Ibrahim, the president of the society.

Ibrahim told Metro President-elect Donald Trump's statements calling Somali migrants a "disaster" for Minneapolis will see many more become desperate to get to Canada.

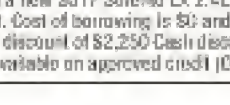
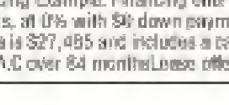
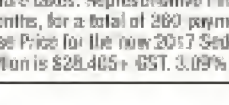
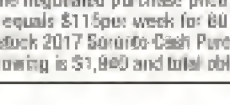
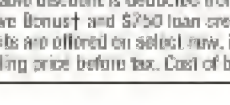
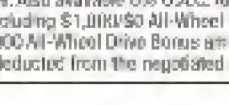
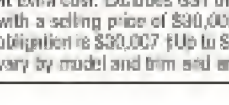
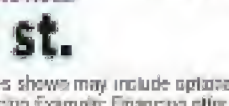
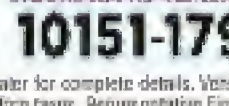
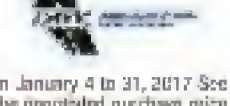
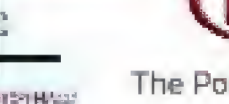
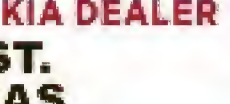
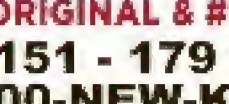
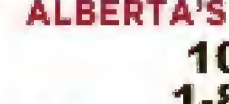
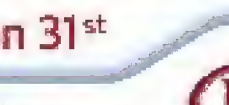
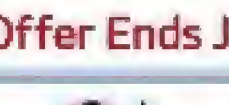
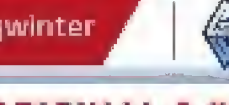
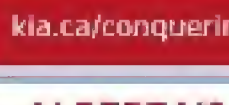
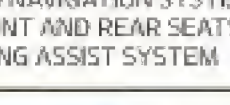
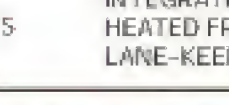
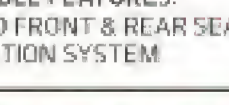
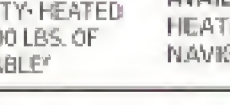
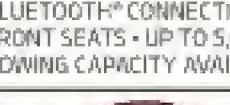
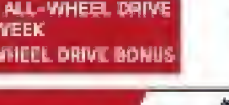
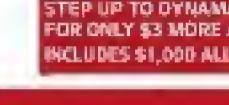
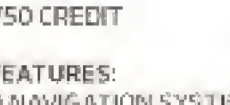
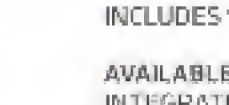
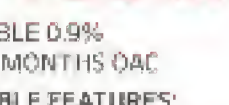
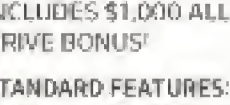
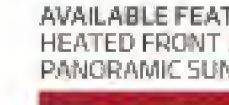
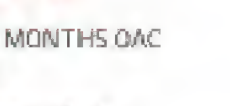
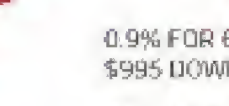
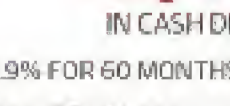
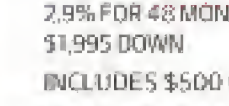
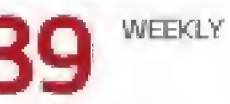
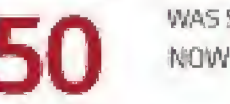
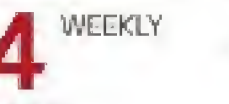
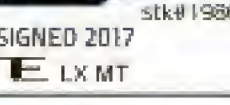
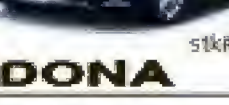
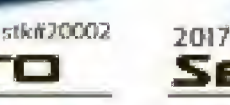
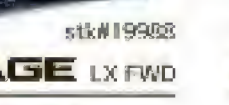
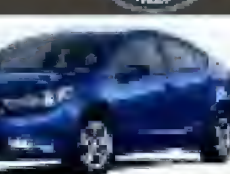
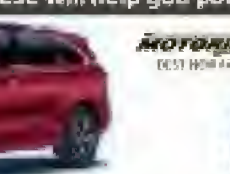
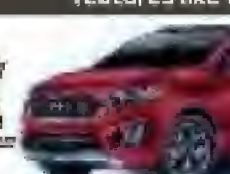
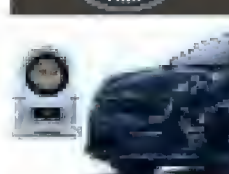
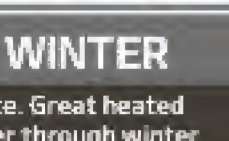
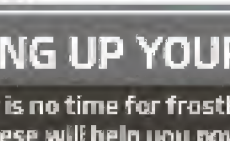
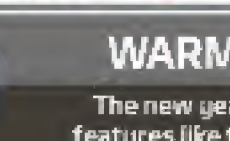
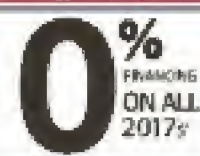
On Dec. 24, Seidu Mohammed, 24, from Ghana, crossed the border on foot near Emerson, Man., with another man from Ghana.

Doctors have told Mohammed that his fingers, and possibly his hands, will need to be amputated due to severe frostbite.

Ibrahim said his organization is taking steps to ensure that any potential refugees entering Alberta and finding their way to Edmonton will be properly cared for. PUSHA BALGOBIN/FOR METRO

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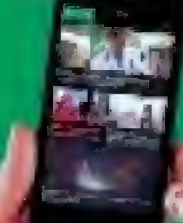


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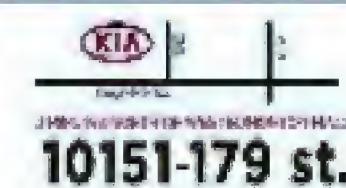
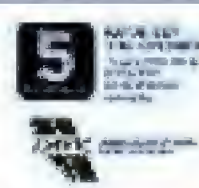
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Kids to dig in the dirt again

ENVIRONMENT

Re-connecting with nature, creativity with play structures



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton kids better get ready to play in the dirt — in a good way.

City of Edmonton planners have released updated designs on “natural play structures” that are proposed for Dermott District Park.

But there won't be plastic in these structures. Instead, think of “group slings” — a wooden, hexagon structure with u-shaped ropes used for swinging — rock walls, and slides planted into hills.

The push for the natural playgrounds is twofold: nearby communities want them and they help people of all ages develop relationships with the outside world, according to Matt Sloan, landscape architect with the city's open space and



City landscape architect Matt Sloan and senior project manager Becky Redford are behind the designs of two new **natural playgrounds** coming to Edmonton. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

planning design department.

“Being able to re-connect with the plants, the dirt, the boulders, and the stone is critical to re-engage people with the natural environment,” Sloan said.

“It's to have that experience with nature that kids and adults maybe aren't hav-



It's to have that experience with nature that kids and adults maybe aren't having these days. Matt Sloan

ing these days.”

Along with Dermott District Park, another natural playground will be located in Wilfred Laurier Park.

according to Martina Gardiner, the acting director of open space planning and design.

“We wouldn't want this type of intensity in a neighbourhood-level park,” Gardiner said. “We would potentially see one or two natural pieces for the smaller parks.”

So why get kids re-connecting with the dirt?

It helps them tap into their creativity, according to Sloan.

He said typical playgrounds are “hard-programmed,” where swings are built only for swinging and slides just for sliding.

That can get boring.

“I think natural playgrounds have that ability to promote those creative opportunities,” he said. “For example, the boulder is a climbing feature one day, and a gathering place the next. It's going to transition and change based on what you're looking for that day.”

Construction on both natural playgrounds will begin in April 2017 and the playgrounds are anticipated to open in the summer of 2018. Planners will also have to report back to council on what kids think of the playgrounds.

Both are ideal spots because they are destinations for Edmontonians — not tiny neighbourhood parks only used by local community members.

ANIMAL PROTECTION

‘Naive’ plan for caribou

Alberta's plan to restore a dwindling caribou herd by penning off a large tract of forest for pregnant cows would only produce “naive” calves that wouldn't survive outside the fence, says a scientific paper.

The paper, published recently in the journal *Animals*, also says the government has overstated how much protected land the Little Smoky herd — nearly wiped out by the effects of industry — will need to survive.

“If we start with habitat conservation and restoration, the caribou will take care of themselves,” said study author Gilbert Proulx.

The attack is the latest on a plan that has already been criticized by environmental groups and biologists.

Government biologists and supporters of the maternity pen say Proulx's paper is full of errors. They say the landscape is so scarred from decades of energy and forestry activity that the herd needs major help.

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IN THURSDAY'S
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Edmonton's best source of real estate information, **Real Estate Weekly**, has found a new home in Thursday's Metro.

Now, every Thursday, when you pick up Metro, you'll turn the page and open the door to a world of unmatched residential and commercial opportunities through the expert offerings of **Real Estate Weekly**.

We hope you enjoy this addition to our Thursday edition.

The **Real Estate Weekly** is owned by the REALTORS® Association of Edmonton and has been around since 1984. **Real Estate Weekly** includes new MLS® System listings in each issue, making it the paper with the most real estate.



On January 25, let's talk.



On January 25, Bell will donate **5¢** more to mental health initiatives for every:

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Howie Mandel

*Mobile calls, long distance calls and text messages must be made and sent by a subscriber. Regular charges apply.

WHAT'S GOING ON

What's on this weekend: Hardcore, Star Wars and more

WHAT: One-man Star Wars

Charles Ross never lost his childhood obsession with Star Wars, and he's channeled it into a one-man play that he's performed more than 1,200 times in more than 180 cities worldwide. Ross will single-handedly play all the characters, sing the music, fly the ships, fight the battles and condense the plots of the original Star Wars trilogy in his comedic take on the classic film series.

WHEN: Friday at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Festival Place, 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park

WHAT: Whiteface

Mile Zero Dance's latest Dance Crush show will feature two indigenous artists, Lady Vanessa Cardona and Todd Houseman, exploring through music and mask the

identities they feel colonized people unintentionally wear in their daily lives.

WHEN: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

WHERE: Spazio Performativo, 10816 95 St.

WHAT: Hardcore for Humanity

Warm up with a charitable night of heavy music courtesy Clean Up Your Act Productions. Food For Life Edmonton will prepare healthy vegan meals for attendees, and all proceeds will help the organization do the same for Edmonton's homeless. Bands on the bill include Contention, Birds Bear Arms and more. Donations of warm clothing and non-perishable food items will also be accepted.

WHEN: Saturday, doors at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Sewing Machine

Factory, 9562 82 Ave.

WHAT: Deep Freeze Byzantine Winter Festival

The free family event will unite cultures and communities to revel in the winter weather, under this year's theme Village Upside Down. Take in live music, cuisine, dance, wagon rides, ice skating, storytelling, fireworks, an artisan market and gallery and more. Saturday will highlight francophone culture, with Sunday focusing on Ukrainian culture, while indigenous cultural performances and programming will span both days.

WHEN: Saturday from noon to 10 p.m., Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

WHERE: 118 Avenue, from 90 Street to 94 Street.

KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO



Brynn Linsey is the first woman to portray Henry V in a Canadian production. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Woman shaking up Shakespeare

THEATRE

Brynn Linsey taking lead as Henry V



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

It certainly wouldn't fly in Shakespeare's day.

An Alberta woman is putting a spin on the Shakespearean tradition of male actors playing women — by being the first female to portray Henry V in a Canadian theatre production.

Brynn Linsey will play the lead in a co-production by Edmonton's Grindstone Theatre and London, UK-based Malachites.

"In any production, women often don't get to play the really intelligent, provocative characters, because women historically speaking were often written as relatively docile creatures," Linsey said.

"It's very cool being able to play somebody that's so intelligent and so on the ball."

Women have taken the role in European productions of Henry V, and Linsey said she's excited to expand that legacy.

Henry V, starting this week at Holy Trinity Anglican Church,

10037 84 Ave., is the globe-trotting Malachites' first Canadian production.

The company's co-director Danielle Larose said they never set out to put a woman in the role, but their gender-blind casting policy is evident throughout the cast.

"Lots of our really militaristic characters throughout the play are played by women, and they do a fantastic job of embodying the spirit of the play and the spirit of the characters that they have been exploring," Larose said.

Henry V will play Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m., through Jan. 28.

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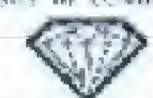
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Like it or not, Canadians should embrace the persistent perception that they're nice, U.S. author Eric Weiner says. iStock

Canuck cliché may be true

IDENTITY

Canadians are as nice as the world insists, author says

When Michigan-born author Kerry Colburn started dating a Canadian, her girlfriends had an immediate great impression of him — without even meet-

ing the guy.

"They would say, 'Oh you're so lucky, you're dating a Canadian. Those guys are so nice!'" recalls Colburn, who went on to marry the Canuck.

The fact he was Canadian seemed to be the only thing her gal pals needed to know, she chuckles.

The notion that Canadians are extra nice is an enduring stereotype the Seattle-based writer wholeheartedly buys into, and

it would seem a lot of Americans do, too.

Meryl Streep was the latest to invoke the cliché in her Golden Globes speech on Sunday, a barbed critique of U.S. president-elect Donald Trump that included a salute to Ontario's Ryan Gosling for being "the nicest people."

"It's so funny that of all the adjectives that she could use for the Canadians she says 'the nicest,' right?" says Colburn, who teamed with her husband to co-write the

books "The U.S. of EH?" and "So, You Want to be Canadian?"

Like it or not, Canadians should embrace this persistent perception, mostly because it's true, U.S. author and avid traveller Eric Weiner says.

"I get a lot of push-back from Canadians who say, 'We're really not that nice,'" says Weiner.

"I think the niceness is this politeness and this humility that we don't have here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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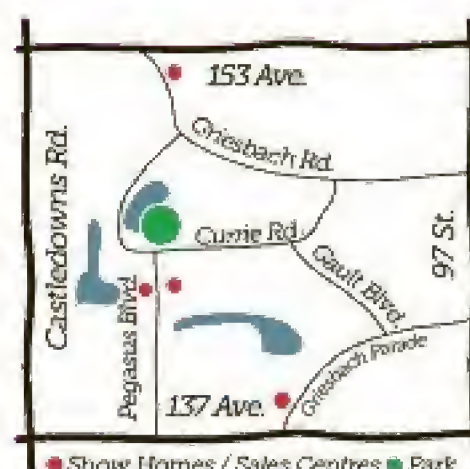
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POLITICS TRUDEAU FACES TOUGH QUESTIONS ON TOUR

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gestures to a member of the audience during the question and answer session during a town hall meeting in Kingston, Ont. on Thursday. Trudeau, who faced critical questions about issues including the Phoenix pay controversy and the handling of indigenous issues, is at the start of a whirlwind, taxpayer-funded outreach tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VACATION

Trudeau defends flight on private helicopter

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is confirming — and defending — his use of a private helicopter while vacationing with the Aga Khan, saying it was the only way to get to his friend's secluded Bahamian island.

The prime minister and his family spent time over Christmas at Bell Island in the Bahamas.

To do so, they flew to Nassau on a Canadian government jet, but made the last leg of the journey aboard the Aga Khan's helicopter.

Trudeau's own ethics guidelines bar the use of sponsored travel in private aircraft, allowing only for exceptional circumstances related to the job of prime minister. But he says he doesn't believe the trip poses

any ethical dilemma.

He says he's happy to discuss the matter with conflict of interest and ethics commissioner Mary Dawson "and answer any questions she may have."

Trudeau only confirmed the flight when speaking to reporters on Thursday, noting it's the only way to get to Bell Island.

"The travel back and forth from Nassau happens on the Aga Khan's private helicopter, which he offered us the use of," Trudeau said. "It's something that certainly we look forward to discussing with the conflict of interest and ethics commissioner, but we don't see an issue on that." He repeated that the vacation was a family trip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Joe Biden accepts the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden stunned by big honour

POLITICS

VP awarded the Medal of Freedom in surprise event

At the dusk of both of their political careers, surrounded by friends and family, U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Joe Biden, the man he called "the finest vice-president we have ever seen."

Biden winced in shock as Obama announced he was conferring the nation's highest civil honour on his right-hand-man of eight years. Biden turned away from cameras, wiped away tears, then stood stoically as Obama draped the

blue-and-white ribbon around his neck.

"I just hope that the asterisk in history that is attached to my name when they talk about this presidency is that I can say I was part of the journey of a remarkable man who did remarkable things for this country," Biden said.

There were several standing ovations at what had been billed as a modest farewell ceremony for Biden but evolved into a surprise bestowal of the Medal of Freedom, the last time Obama will present the honour.

"I had no idea," Biden said of the award, insisting he didn't deserve it.

It was the only time Obama has presented the medal "with distinction," also awarded only once by each of the previous three presidents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Airstrikes escalating despite ceasefire

The UN envoy for Syria said Thursday that a ceasefire was "largely holding, with some exceptions," as opposition activists reported a mounting number of government airstrikes, including a raid in the northern Aleppo province that killed at least six civilians.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Staffan de Mistura said he was concerned that fighting northwest of Damascus that has cut off the capital's clean water supply would further escalate

and derail proposed negotiations between the government and the opposition in Astana, Kazakhstan, later this month.

The talks are sponsored by Russia and Turkey, which support opposing sides of the Syrian civil war. But the status of the meeting, planned for Jan. 23, is not clear. Rebels say the government's continued campaign for the Barada Valley, the capital's main source of water, has cast the talks in doubt.

The UN says the capital has

suffered from a water shortage affecting 5.5 million consumers since December 22.

The leader of one of Syria's largest rebel factions, the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham, said in remarks aired Thursday that the violence in the valley and daily airstrikes on rebel-held areas "are signs of a collapsing truce."

De Mistura said five villages in the Wadi Barada area have reached an "arrangement" with the government, but two villa-

ges, including one which holds the source of water, al-Fijeh, have not.

"There is a danger, a substantial danger, imminent danger, that this may develop into a further military escalation," further imperiling the water supply, he said.

He also said the ceasefire, which came into effect Dec. 30, should widen humanitarian access to besieged areas, but that "unfortunately, that is not the case." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Goodbye and hello

Obama's big farewell, and Trump's first media hello, couldn't have done more to put the past and present into sharp relief

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.



Did you hear the echo in Barack Obama's voice during his farewell address? It made him sound like a man already speaking from the past. Or if you take seriously his message of hope — that consistent, plodding message of hope — a man speaking from the future.

Maybe you were also online, watching the stories stream in via CNN and the New York Times detailing all the dirt that Russia, allegedly, has on President-elect Donald Trump.

Watching reporters lob complicated, double-barred questions at Trump during his press conference the next day, questions he easily sidestepped; watching Trump turn said press conference, meant to cover his enormous conflicts of interest, into a referendum on how the media handled the steamy allegations of blackmail dirt; watching Trump stock the marbled



The differences between Obama and Trump couldn't have been sharper this week. GETTY IMAGES

room with a cheering audience and piles of paper, signaling that all press conferences from now on will be staged like a performance; all this suggested that someone still has the upper hand. And it's an orange one.

This week, with Obama's big goodbye, and Trump's first media hello, couldn't have done more to put the past and present into sharp relief.

Obama spoke, as always, with passion, composure, and eloquent complete sentences. Trump spoke, as always, with

derision, falsities and the rhetorical equivalent of splashing in a pool. Very early Wednesday morning, Trump compared his political opponents to "Nazi Germany" on Twitter.

Later, we learned that the 2016 "Russia Law Firm of the Year," Morgan Lewis, was picked to handle Trump's business conflicts of interest, just as Trump was forced to admit Russia hacked the DNC and sought to influence the U.S. election in his favour, which itself came after months of Putin-fawning and intelligence-



community bashing. Putin's fondness for Trump is "an asset," Trump asserted, without any irony. Later, he took to Twitter to tell everyone to go "buy L.L. Bean."

Trump's attack on BuzzFeed and CNN during his press conference should alarm the media. (He called BuzzFeed a "failing pile of garbage," and CNN "fake news," and refused to answer a CNN reporter's questions.) So should his clear disinterest in regular press conferences.

The institution of the

presidency will not emerge from four years of Trump unchanged. It's already begun to mould around him during the transition, especially on the matter of communication with the press and conflicts of interest. When Trump called the unsubstantiated report of Russian blackmail and influence "fake news," he continued the tradition of hyperbolic statements intended to destabilize any sense of a common reality.

When he again argued only reporters care about seeing his tax returns, he ignored the facts. This week, a poll found 60 per cent of Americans agree with reporters, but 53 per cent of Republicans agree with Trump.

Trump, it's clear, considers his supporters to be Americans, the media to be the enemy, and everyone else to be invisible. This is how we can expect him to govern. From hope to harassment: The presidential transition of our time.

U.S. POLITICS

Carson tells Senate he knows housing needs

Former U.S. presidential candidate Ben Carson defended his experience and credentials Thursday to serve as the nation's new housing secretary, turning to his life story to show that he understands the needs of the country's vulnerable. At his confirmation hearing, Carson talked about growing up in Detroit with a single mother who worked numerous jobs to keep a roof over their heads.

"I have actually in my life understood what housing insecurity was," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuban immigration policy ends after many years

President Barack Obama announced Thursday he is ending a longstanding immigration policy that allows any Cuban who makes it to U.S. soil to stay. The repeal of the "wet foot, dry foot" policy is effective immediately, and follows months of negotiations focused in part on getting Cuba to agree to take back people who had arrived in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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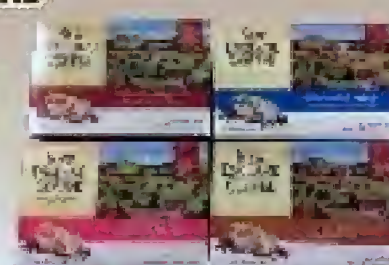
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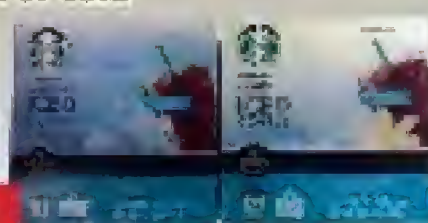
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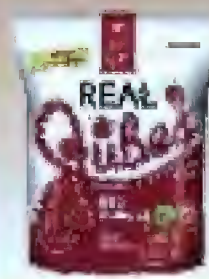
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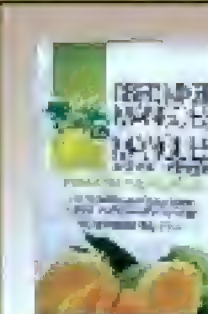
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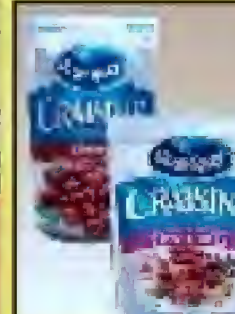
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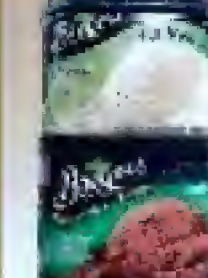
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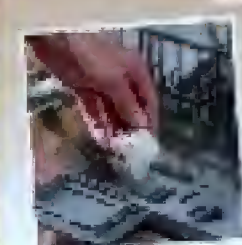
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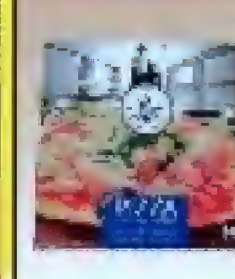
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IN BRIEF

McBreakfast all day long

McDonald's has begun serving its famed Egg McMuffins, hash browns and other breakfast menu items around the clock in some restaurants in Canada. The fast-food giant has launched all-day breakfast at 17 restaurants in B.C., Ontario and Quebec. McDonald's launched all-day breakfast in the U.S. in the fall of 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

REAL ESTATE

'Feast and famine' gap closing

The extreme regional disparities that characterized Canada's real-estate markets last year will narrow in 2017 as overheated areas cool and slower markets gather steam, Royal LePage says in a report released Thursday.

That trend will be driven by lower prices in Greater Vancouver and strong but moderating price growth in the Greater Toronto Area, the company said.

"In 2017, we anticipate a movement away from the

regional extremes of real-estate feast and famine — and that is a very good thing," said Phil Soper, president and CEO of Royal LePage.

Royal LePage's national composite index of prices grew 13 per cent year-over-year to \$558,153 in the fourth quarter of last year, the highest increase recorded by the index in more than 10 years. Two-storey homes led the charge, rising 14.3 per cent to \$661,730, while the price of a condo was up a

more moderate 7.4 per cent to \$356,307.

Nationally, home prices are forecast to climb 2.8 per cent this year, Royal LePage said.

In Greater Vancouver, an 8.5 per cent price correction is expected.

That contrasts with the outlook for the Toronto area, where Soper says there is "no relief in sight". Prices in the area are expected to hit \$793,000, an increase of 10 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Coal mining in Sparwood, B.C. is expected to escape the fallout of a carbon tax as it exports its product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tale of two coal towns

CARBON TAX

Hanna, Alta. may lose jobs; Sparwood, B.C. unaffected

The hand-painted sign on a bumpy road on the east side of Hanna speaks volumes.

"Hanna supports coal, cows, gas and oil," it says bluntly. The sign includes a circle with a line through it over the words "carbon tax."

The town of 2,700, northeast of Calgary, has largely lived off agriculture. But a large vein of thermal coal east of town led to the construction of the coal-fired Sheerness generating plant in the early 1980s and has provided jobs and business in the region ever since.

People worry that economic boost is threatened by a new carbon levy and the provincial government's plan to shut down coal-fired power plants

by 2030 and move exclusively to natural gas, wind, solar and hydro energy instead.

"If it's a complete 100 per cent closure we're going to lose 200 full-time, well-paying jobs. That's about 7.5 per cent of our population," says Hanna Mayor Chris Warwick.

"To put that into real-life numbers, Edmonton losing 7.5 per cent is about 62,000 people — Calgary's around 90,000 — so it's a massive hit."

It's a different situation 450 km southeast in Sparwood, B.C., where coal is still king.

Sparwood, unlike Hanna, has metallurgical coal, which is almost entirely exported to Japan and Korea for steelmaking. That makes the product exempt from the carbon tax.

Sparwood's mayor says an increase in world prices over the past few years has kept the mountain community humming. Teck Resources employs about 4,000 people at its five steelmaking coal operations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

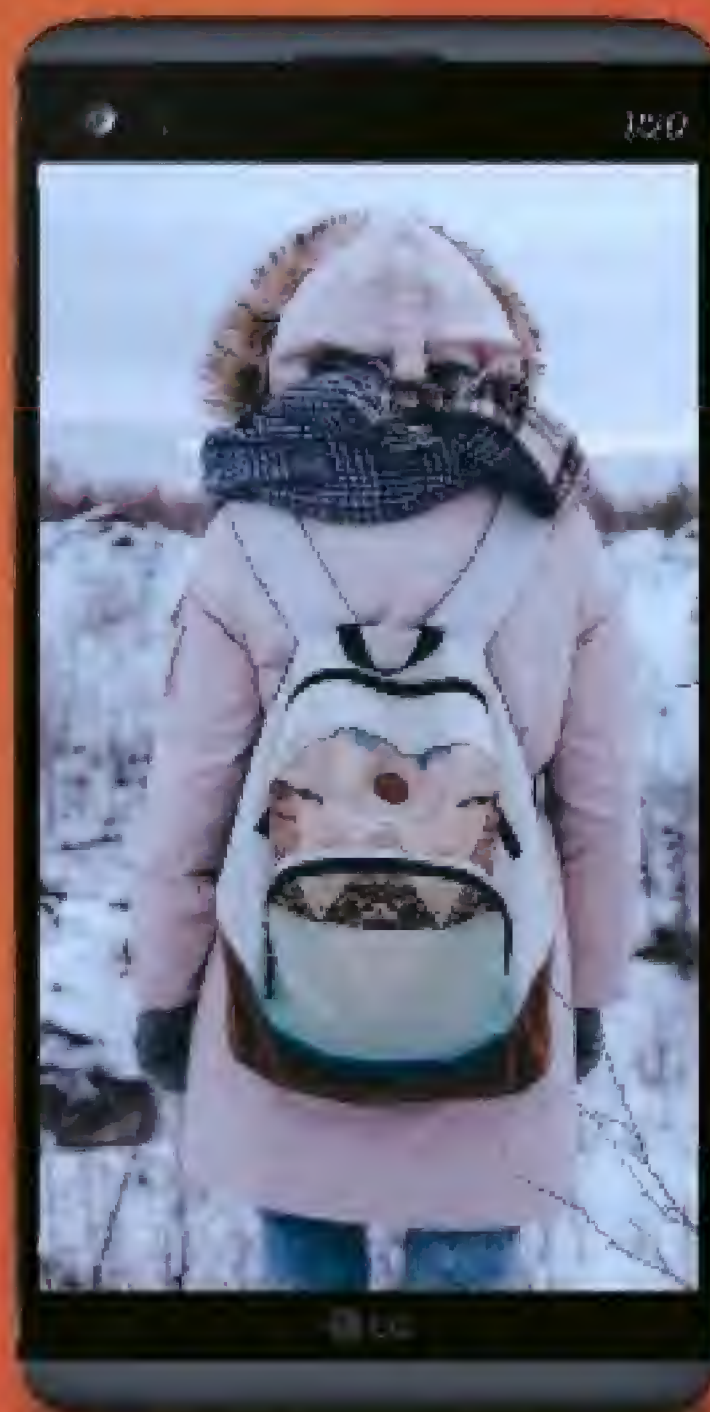
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Your essential daily news

Doggone sad: Big dogs may have short lives because they burn a lot of energy, making chemicals called free radicals that speed up aging

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

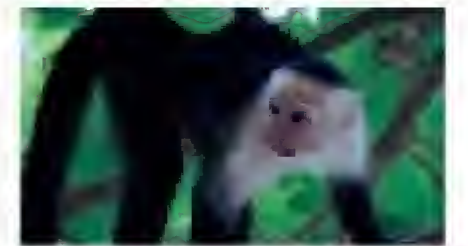
MARCH LIKE A PENGUIN, FOR SAFETY

Falls are a big deal. In winter, very real fear of falling can isolate the elderly and people with disabilities indoors, but anyone can take a tumble. A group of German doctors has published guidelines on how to walk safely during slippery-sidewalk season. We recruited Metro reporter Luke Simcoe to demonstrate.



FINDINGS

Your week in science



STEVEN G. JOHNSON

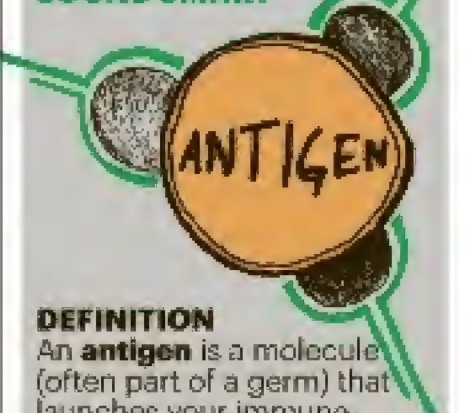
MONKEY MATH

University of Toronto researchers believe capuchin monkeys have some understanding of probability. When given a choice between different jars, they pick ones with proportionally more peanuts. It's a level of numeracy beyond "less" and "more" we thought only humans had.

TIGHTEST KNOT

University of Manchester scientists have the boy scouts beat. They braided molecular strands into the tightest, most complex knot ever made. It crosses itself eight times.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION

An **antigen** is a molecule (often part of a germ) that launches your immune system into attack mode. In response to contact with an **antigen**, you make sticky proteins called **antibodies** to fight it.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

Everybody is staying ten feet away from Deborah because she's sneezing and sniffing. But she doesn't have the flu. Her body thinks the dust in here is an **antigen**, even though it's harmless, and her immune system is on the attack. She has a dust **allergy**.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

How can I boost my immune system?

Does zinc, echinacea or vitamin C help boost the immune system? - Levon, Toronto

Given what a gnarly cold and flu season we're in, I wish I had some better news for you. Alas, no.

The first thing to ask when someone claims this or that potion "boosts the immune system" is "Which part of it?" The immune system isn't one thing. It's physical barriers, specialized cells and response mechanisms all working together to fight off invaders like cold and flu viruses.

The second thing to ask is "what are the side effects?" A true, measurable, significant boost to the immune system can leave you feeling pretty crummy. Ever gotten a shot of interferon to help rev up the inflammatory response your body uses to fight a virus? The disease-fighting proteins released into the blood are the same ones you get from a hangover. What about sargramostim, which helps make white blood cells if yours have been wiped out by chemo? One of the side effects is "bone pain." Ick.

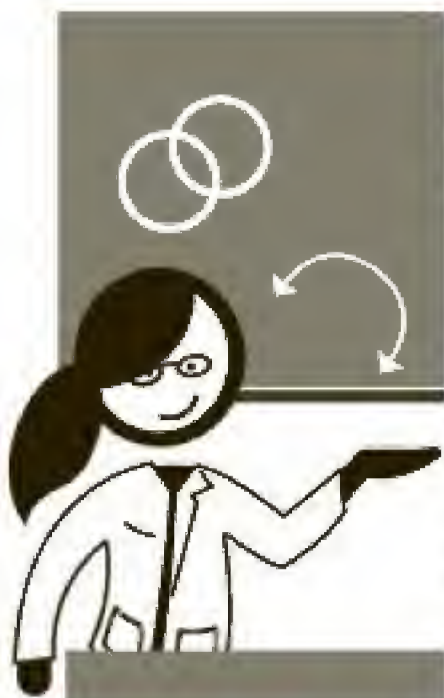
It's true your immune system may fall down on the job if you're stressed, malnourished, smoking, or deficient in essential vitamins or minerals. But if you're generally healthy, there isn't that much you can do to get immunity superpowers, cool as that would be.

On to specifics: There's a bit of evidence, from reviews of previous studies, that taking echinacea or zinc supplements may shorten the duration of colds very slightly. But the data are mixed and the effect is small to insignificant, especially in the case of echin-

acea. Getting enough vitamin C helps you have fewer colds, but it doesn't do much once you're sick.

A vitamin D researcher I spoke to once reminded me of something else: Some studies that find that vitamin supplements have a benefit (i.e. a vitamin prevents colds), didn't screen people for deficiency. The pills didn't give people extra immunity: They fixed what was broken, allowing the immune system to work as it should.

Science Question?
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Shaking things up at Sundance

CANADIAN CONTENT

Indigenous films bring new sense of urgency to fest

Rise and Rumble aren't just the titles of two noteworthy Canadian productions headed to this month's Sundance Film Festival. They're also statements of purpose.

Canada's filmmakers are out to get attention and shake up conventional wisdom at Sundance (Jan. 19-29).

This is especially true regarding films from Canada's indigenous communities. They've always been welcome at Sundance, but the selections this year have a new sense of urgency about them.

Rise, directed by Toronto's Michelle Latimer, an Algonquin/Métis filmmaker, is an original series for Rogers Media's Viceland TV channel, planned for broadcast early this year.

Premiering in Sundance's Special Events section, Rise is billed as "a condemnation of colonialism and a celebration of Indigenous people worldwide." Three episodes premiering at Sundance — Sacred Water, Red Power and Apache Stronghold — show how native North Americans and their global supporters are peacefully but forcefully fighting back against exploitation of their land: at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation spanning North Dakota and South Dakota, where the Dakota Access Pipeline threatens water supplies; and also at Arizona's San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, where mining companies seek to dig up sacred ground.

"As a filmmaker I think I have a very real responsibility to bear witness," director/showrunner Latimer says via email. "How can I go work on a reality show about food or something when there are people in my own community dying because of lack of clean water, medical care and housing — and this is supposed to be in one of the most affluent countries in the world?"

"Something is very, very wrong when you look at that picture. Making films gives me a platform to explore and communicate the things in society I disagree with. And it gives me a productive place to direct my anger. Because believe me, I'm angry at both the disparity and the privilege I see around me every day."

One of the Standing Rock episodes includes an interview with Jesse Wentz, a member of the Ojibwa nation and TIFF's director of film programs.

Indigenous media of all kinds is benefitting from "the democratization of the means of production and access," he says in an interview.

"The rise of Indigenous media has really occurred in the last 10 years and there's absolutely a connection between the rise of things like Twitter, Facebook and other social media. The fact that you don't need to have a desk in a mainstream newsroom to necessarily have a voice in today's media has meant a lot for marginalized communities."

It also allows these communities to correct the historical record, which is the impetus for Rumble, subtitled The Indians Who Rocked the World. It's a documentary account of how musicians with aboriginal roots, including guitar greats Jimi Hendrix, Link Wray, Charley Patton and The Band's Robbie Robertson, made a profound impact on popular music.

I'm angry at both the disparity and the privilege I see around me every day.
Filmmaker
Michelle Latimer

son, made a profound impact on popular music.

One of the film's executive producer is Stevie Salas, who has played guitar for many rock greats, Mick Jagger and Rod Stewart among them. Salas, of the Apache nation, says he was surprised by how many deep aboriginal links to popular music were uncovered during the research for Rumble.

Sundance director John Cooper is excited about Rise and Rumble playing his festival because these films are "taking it to a place where you can actually effect change through the storytelling itself. I think that's what Rumble is going to do, because it's interesting to a lot of people, and it brings you closer into looking at our world a little differently."

"With Rise, I really like the whole notion of young people and young voices telling these stories, which is part of the mission of that project."

Rumble will premiere in competition in Sundance's World Cinema Documentary program. So will another musically minded film with Canuck content: the U.K./Canada co-production Tokyo Idols, by Britain's Kyoko Miyake, a documentary on Japan's fascination with girl bands.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Michelle Latimer directs Rise, a Viceland TV series that's planned for broadcast early this year. Episodes show how native North Americans and their global supporters are peacefully but forcefully fighting back against exploitation of their land. COURTESY OF SUNDANCE INSTITUTE



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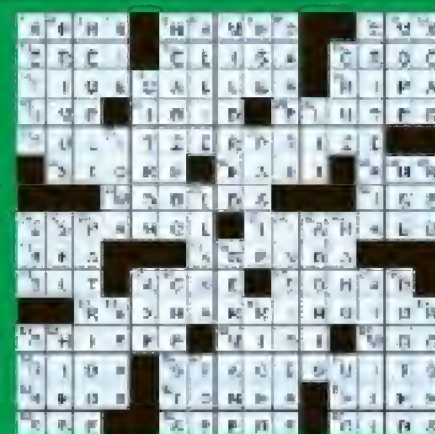
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At the top of her field

Hollywood's second Grand Dame
Annette Bening may be best of all



In 20th Century Women, Annette Bening serves up trademark density to Dorothea. CONTRIBUTED

Richard Crouse
In Focus



Meryl Streep has a body of work that speaks for itself and, as she proved last Sunday night from the stage of the Golden Globes, is unafraid to challenge the status quo. But last week while the world formed opinions about Streep as she mouthed off about Donald Trump, I had my eye on someone in the audience.

During Streep's speech the camera landed on Annette Bening, who gives the Grand Dame a run for her money, acting wise.

This weekend Bening adds 20th Century Women to her already stellar IMDb resume. As free-spirited single mother Dorothea she is, as writer David Edelstein wrote, irreducible. In other words she's complex: loving yet stand-offish, warm but steely, a hippie who studies the stock market and Bening brings her to vivid life.

It's that density of character that sets Bening apart from her peers, Streep included. Warren Beatty, her husband and sometimes director says she has, "talent, beauty, wit, humility and grace," a combination that makes her "the best actress alive."

Biased? Likely, but the evidence is on the screen. Bening works sporadically, some-

times taking years between projects or taking small supporting roles in idiosyncratic independent films like Ruby Sparks, but her characters are always compelling.

She became a star playing femme fatale Myra in 1990's con artist caper The Grifters. Gleefully embracing her character's deviousness, she stole the movie. Then came intricate portrayals of everything from a neurotic real estate broker in American Beauty to Bugsy's tough-talking Hollywood starlet and In Dreams' psychic vigilante. Each performance is a polished gem even when the movies aren't as good as she is.

The last of her Best Actress Oscar nods came with 2010's The Kids Are Alright. At the center of story are Nic (Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore), a long time lesbian couple raising their two kids. It's a happy family until their daughter contacts her biological father Paul (Mark Ruffalo) via the sperm bank.

A scene near the movie's end displays the complexity of Bening's work. Nic and Paul sing a Joni Mitchell song at a

dinner party. Their wild act is joyful, ridiculous and poignant simultaneously and is a perfect microcosm of Bening's performance. It's her well-drawn character that keeps the basic story afloat with its lived-in, realistic feel.

Less known is Bening's fine work in The Face of Love, a 2014 film about a widow obsessed with a man who looks exactly like her late husband Tom. Trouble is, she never tells him about his resemblance, raising the question: Is she in love with Tom or a memory?

Is she a selfish conniver, a grief stricken widow or one brick short of a load? The movie allows for interpretation, but regardless of your take, Bening's performance is so raw and vulnerable it's difficult to completely condemn her behaviour.

Bening's name may not always be mentioned in the hushed tones as Streep, but I suspect she doesn't care for the accolades as much as shattering the clichés of how women are portrayed on film. On that score she is at the top of her field.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Patriots Day ★★★★★
Paterson ★★★★★
20th Century Women ★★★★★
Live By Night ★★★
Monster Trucks (no stars)
Bugs ★★

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5

CLASSIC SITES TO SEE WHEN YOU HIT UP ATHENS

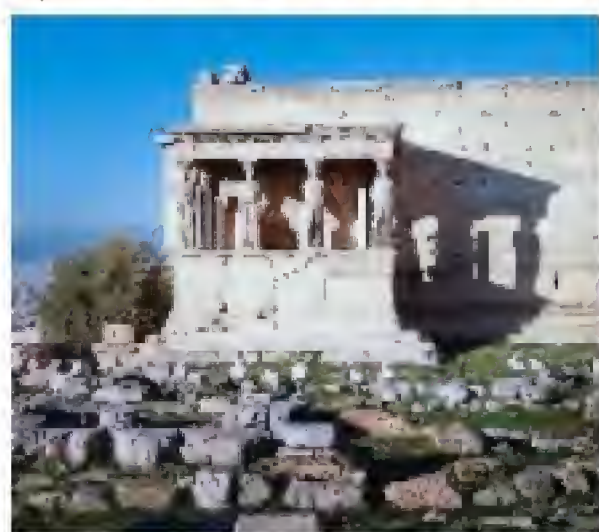
As a seaside metropolis with a lively outdoor vibe and dozens of picturesque islands beckoning nearby, Athens is more often considered a summer tourist destination than a winter escape. But if you've got more than beaches on your mind, there's plenty of upside to a brief cool visit that avoids the crowds and heat of summer. Here's a suggested itinerary for a three-day visit: **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



1 The Odeon of Herodes Atticus

The Odeon of Herodes Atticus, or Herodeion is a stone theatre structure located on the southwest slope of the Acropolis of Athens. The Herodeion still hosts the occasional live performance.

2 The Erechtheion

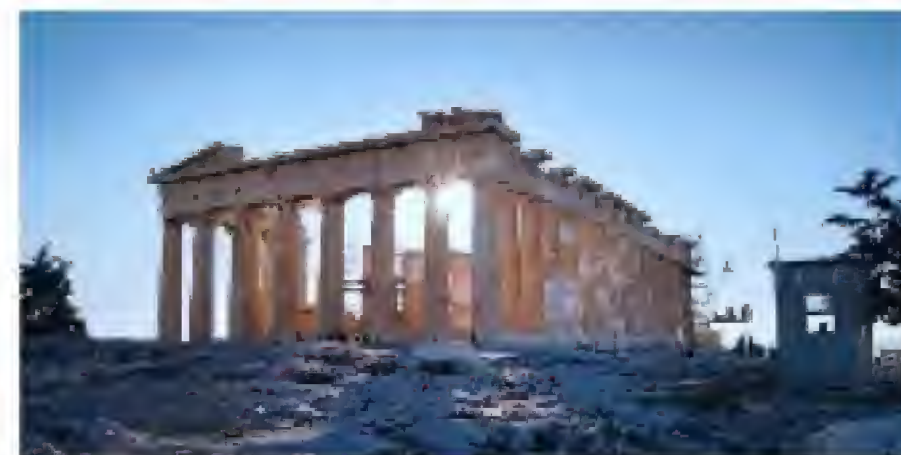


The Acropolis is particularly striking to view at night, when brilliantly illuminated. A 10-euro entrance fee to the compound takes you along a course of the central structures of Greek mythology as you climb past the Theatre of Dionysus, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion.



4 Temple of Poseidon

A rewarding outing is the bus ride along the "Greek Riviera" down to the southern peninsula of Sounion, where the Temple of Poseidon reveals a breathtaking view of the sea. The deep blue waters ripple around the ancient hilltop structure dedicated to the god of the sea. The salty breeze offers an escape from the bustle of Athens, as mountains and the rocky ancient landscape provides a tranquil parting from Greece.

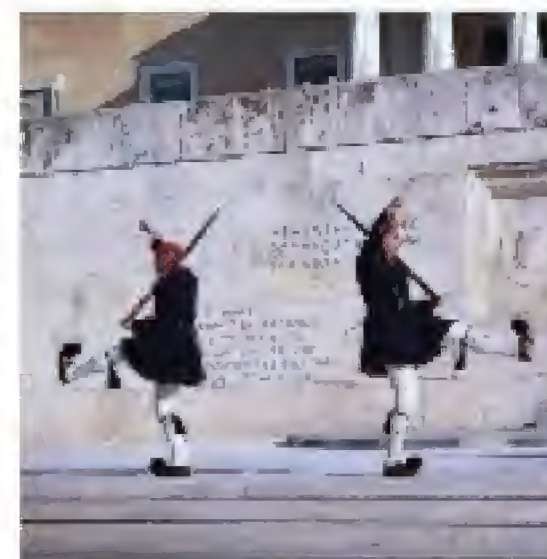


4 The Parthenon

The centerpiece of ancient Greece and modern-day Athens, the Acropolis literally stands above everything else and looms majestically over the city. A 20-minute walk to the top unveils the most famous structure of all, the Parthenon — a former temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, the city's patron. However, the scaffolding of its prolonged restoration project takes a bit away from its grandeur.

5 Syntagma Square

This is the heart of the city and site of mass protests in recent years over the Greek economic crisis. The square is right in front of parliament and the tomb of the unknown soldier, where soldiers in kilt-like garments and red leather clogs with black pompoms perform elaborate changing of the guard ceremonies several times a day.



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Saskatchewan brew scene hopping

FOOD AND DRINK

Regina boasts of beer you can't get elsewhere

The tap is pulled forward, a pint glass tilted at an angle below, ready for the flow of golden liquid. Maybe it's an India Pale Ale, a blond, a sour or perhaps something a little darker like a Belgian-style Flanders.

Whatever quenches your thirst, craft brewers in Regina are offering beer selections to please the palate.

The guys at Rebellion Brewing brewed their 300th batch this month. That's the equivalent of one million pints since the company opened about two years ago.

"That's pretty awesome," said Mark Heise, who was a home brewer and became one of Rebellion's founders along with Jamie Singer.

"And I don't think our attitude has changed a whole lot — we still are just trying to make really fun, exciting beers that we enjoy."

Singer says the craft beer industry is growing across Canada and it's just starting to explode in Saskatchewan.

He says there's a feeling of camaraderie in the industry and everyone can work together to make Regina and the region a draw for craft beer.

"Our whole idea is very akin to what the winery region in the Okanagan is or Niagara region is," said Singer.

"They're all competitors, but ultimately, also, if you can pull people into that local stuff and get them drinking really great craft beer, or wine in the Okanagan, everybody else is going to be turned on to it too ... and we start to grow that whole market together."

Rebellion is in Regina's Warehouse District.

The tap room has 16 beers on tap, including beer from other Saskatchewan breweries, such as Nokomis Craft Ales, a microbrewery in Nokomis, about 135 kilometres north of Regina.

There's a small food menu that's all local, from the pizza to the pretzels to the meat pies. In the summer, food trucks set up out front.

"It's about just celebrating



Mark Heise and Jamie Singer, co-founders of Rebellion Brewing Company in Regina, are celebrating their 300th batch this month. MICHAEL BELL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

and enjoying things that make your community unique," said Heise.

Singer says the Bushwakker Brewpub, also in the Warehouse District, set the foundation for craft beer in Regina.

The Bushwakker Brewpub opened more than 25 years ago.

It's a full restaurant with the brewery attached. The walls have works from Saskatchewan artists, photographs from Re-

gina's history — including when the Warehouse District was hit by a tornado in 1912 — and local music pours from the speakers. Bar manager Grant Frew says craft brewers, like Bushwakker, Rebellion and Regina's Malty National, are "all about making really good beer."

"The smaller breweries, we're making smaller batches of beer, we can use nothing but malted barley — that's the only thing

that we use to produce the alcohol — and that has much more flavour," explained Frew.

The first Saturday of December has come to be known as Mead Day in Regina. The brew pub uses honey from the nearby community of Lumsden to make its Blackberry Mead and people wait for hours in anticipation.

The Bushwakker Brewpub sells more than 30 beers, including its own specialty and

IF YOU GO

Rebellion Brewing offers free tours on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Group tours can be arranged too.

Bushwakker Brewpub will do free tours. Call ahead to make plans. It also offers a beer school for around \$10.

Nokomis, Black Bridge Brewery in Swift Current, Paddock Wood microbrewery in Saskatoon and Malty National.

Malty National is a microbrewery nestled in Regina's Heritage neighbourhood, in a building with a coffee shop and a vintage record and clothing store. It opened in March 2016.

Kelsey Beach, one of the owners of Malty National, says they brew six times a month. One beer was brewed with hops donated by local residents.

"Every brewery has its own taste and flavour profile ... and you can't get beers like the Bushwakker or Rebellion or Malty National elsewhere in Canada," said Beach. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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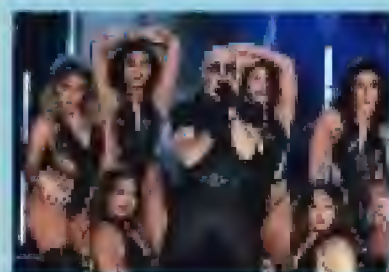
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TRAVEL PITBULL, LUCAS & TUBMAN


GETTY IMAGES

Visit Florida to pay out CEO after Pitbull kerfuffle

Florida's tourism agency agreed to pay its outgoing president and CEO \$73,000 U.S. amid the fallout from the state's secret deal with rapper Pitbull and a video for his song Sexy Beaches. Visit Florida is hiring a former federal prosecutor as the new CEO.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GETTY IMAGES

L.A. beats San Fran for George Lucas museum site

Star Wars creator George Lucas and his team have chosen Los Angeles over San Francisco as the home of a

museum that will showcase his work. After what organizers called an extremely difficult decision, they announced Tuesday that the museum will be built in Exposition Park in Los Angeles. The project became the subject of a rivalry between the two cities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Harriet Tubman park becomes a reality

U.S. federal parks officials have formally established the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in upstate New York. The New York park will focus on Tubman's work later on in her life when she was an active proponent of women's suffrage and other causes. It will be a sister park to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slovenia in the spotlight

CUISINE
Mrs. Trump's homeland a marriage of old and new

A master chef is bringing attention to the cuisine of Melania Trump's homeland.

Ana Ros, who starred last year in an episode of the Chef's Table Netflix series, runs what some consider Slovenia's best restaurant in a remote village inn.

Slovenian tourism officials recently brought Ros to New York to showcase her culinary talents at a time when tourism in the country is booming, up to nearly three million tourists a year in a country of two million people.

Ros heads the kitchen in an inn called Hisa Franko. Her ever-changing menu there reads like no other, to name just a few dishes: fried white asparagus with celery cream; arctic char with wild berries and buttermilk; pasta filled with whipped cheese from sheep in nearby pastures, served with langoustines and mushrooms; and pork and lobster with ginger and pickled garlic on a bed of ancient Indian



Top chef Ana Ros heads the kitchen at Hisa Franko in a remote Slovenian village. The tiny nation of two million is now hosting nearly three million tourists a year. SLOVENIAN TOURIST BOARD

herbal leaves.

Ros' husband, cheese and wine expert Valter Kramar, inherited Hisa Franko and a small farm from his father. The inn is located in the remote village of Kobarid, in the western part of the country, surrounded by pine forests in the emerald Soca River Valley. It was here that Ernest Hemingway set part of his World War I novel, A Farewell to Arms.

Ros' cooking skills are largely self-taught, though she was mentored by culinary luminaries to

become a master chef of a surprising cuisine.

Ros and Kramar have travelled the world, blending global tastes and techniques with ingredients from local fields and their own vegetable garden. In some ways, Ros' menus reflect the cross-currents that define Slovenia, nestled as it is between Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia.

"Slovenia is a perfect mix of landscape and culture — the sea, the Alps and the rolling hills and plains, close to each other, with

Mediterranean, Central European and Balkan influences," says Andrej Smrekar, an art curator at Ljubljana's National Gallery of Slovenia who helped turn a medieval monastery church in the countryside into a modern art gallery. "Tourists have a taste for what's authentic, but to them unknown and untouched."

When Melania Trump was a student in Ljubljana in the 1980s, the city was rocked by punk rebels and activists impatient to shake off the vestiges of drab socialist bureaucracy. Slovenia was mostly spared in the brutal civil war that followed independence from Yugoslavia of other republics farther south.

Now, Ljubljana is a lively metropolis of about 300,000 residents, but the city's roots go back to prehistory: A museum displays the earliest wheel used by humans in the area, before the ancient Romans arrived.

The city centre is traffic-free, with pedestrians crossing the river over a historic triple stone bridge that leads to outdoor produce vendors, a seafood market and shops offering everything from bread freshly baked in a wood-fired oven to flowers, spices and artisanal candles.

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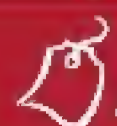
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Justin Thomas joined the PGA Tour's "59 Club" by making a 15-foot eagle on his last hole at the Sony Open in Honolulu for an 11-under 59



'I don't even care': Bryant past notorious no-catch

NFL PLAYOFFS

Cowboys have chance to avenge loss two years ago

Dez Bryant still gets stopped all the time by people who are sure the officials blew the replay on the Dallas receiver's famous catch that wasn't in a playoff loss at Green Bay two years ago.

And the 2014 All-Pro figures if the Cowboys go on to win the Super Bowl as the top seed in the NFC, that play will be what fans want to talk to him about. Even if he wins another Super Bowl next year. And so on.

"Even if we were to win four or five Super Bowls, people still going to be like, 'He still caught it,'" Bryant said. "That's what it's going to be."

The Cowboys (13-3) get a divisional-round rematch with the Packers on Sunday, this time at home. And while Bryant knew from the moment Green Bay (11-6) beat the New York Giants last weekend in the wild-card round that the disputed play would dominate the conversation, he's playing the part that coach Jason Garrett would prefer.

"I don't even care," Bryant said when asked if that moment was his first thought after the Packers won. "That was 2014.

+ DIVISIONAL SKED

SATURDAY

Seahawks at Falcons, 2:30 p.m.
Texans at Patriots, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY

Steelers at Chiefs, 11 a.m.
Packers at Cowboys, 2:30 p.m.

There's no extra motivation, there's no nothing. If there's any motivation it's just to prepare better than the last time."

The most notable change for the Cowboys since then is at quarterback, with rookie Dak Prescott winning 11 straight games in the regular season to take Tony Romo's job once Dallas' 10-year starter was ready to return from a pre-season back injury.

Back then, Romo gambled on fourth-and-2 from the Green Bay 32 with 4-1/2 minutes remaining. Bryant made a leaping grab over Sam Shields around the 2 and lunged for the end zone. What happened with the ball will be debated forever, some saying Bryant had



Dez Bryant attempts to haul in a catch against the Packers' Sam Shields on Jan. 11, 2015 in Green Bay. Initially ruled a catch, the call was reversed upon review. MIKE MCGINNIS/GETTY IMAGES

control throughout the catch, others saying the ground jarred it loose briefly.

Referee Gene Steratore had the only opinion that mattered,

and he ruled upon review after the play was called a reception that Bryant didn't control the ball all the way through the catch.

"There's a lot of emotion that goes into that play and that moment," said tight end Jason Witten, the first to greet Bryant in the end zone when the Cowboys thought they had a first down inside the Green Bay 1.

"What a play by him. What's a catch, what's not a catch? I just don't think any one moment like that can define any of us. Certainly we all reflect on it and look back on it. It probably hardened us some. Know what? Nobody cares. We're two years later. But it's a great example of just the margin at this point and this time of the season."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yeah, of course it was tough. It was heartbreaking. It ended our season.

Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant

IN BRIEF

Chargers relocating after 56 years in San Diego

The San Diego Chargers are moving to Los Angeles, where they will join the recently relocated Rams in giving the nation's second-largest media market two NFL teams for the first time in decades.

The team will be known as the Los Angeles Chargers and will relocate for the 2017 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Condon sharp for Sens as Pens lose second straight

Mike Condon made 29 saves Thursday night as the Ottawa Senators defeated the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1.

This marked the first time the Penguins, coming off a 5-2 loss to the Washington Capitals Wednesday, lost back-to-back games in regulation since Dec. 14-19, 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Koe salvages a draw for Team North America

A late comeback from North America's Kevin Koe prevented a World sweep in Thursday's opening draw of the Continental Cup of Curling in Las Vegas.

The Calgary skip scored two points in the eighth and final end for a 5-5 draw with Norway's Thomas Ulsrud.

Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones and Jamie Sinclair of the United States both fell in their opening matches.

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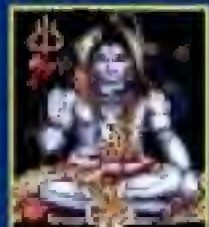
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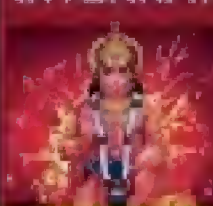
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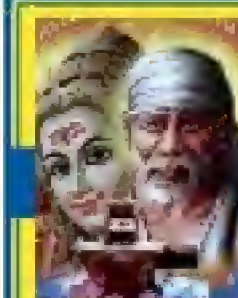
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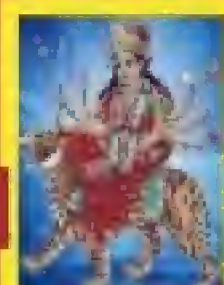
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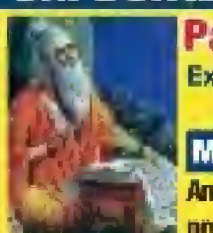
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PHOTO: MAVA VISHNEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Celebrate with a proper roast dinner. This one-pan recipe is simple to make — and clean up!

Ready in 1 hour, 5 minutes

Prep time: 15
Cook time: 50
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 large apple, peeled, cored and chopped into 1/2 inch wedges (use a firm apple)
- 2 tsp thyme, finely chopped
- 1 smallish sweet potato, peeled and chopped into 1/2-inch discs
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced into 1/4 inch rounds
- 1.25 – 1.5 kg pork loin
- Salt and pepper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In small bowl, mix 1 Tbsp Dijon, 1 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar.

2. Assemble apples and vegetables in two rows in a roasting pan, alternating onion, sweet potato and apple. Brush marinade over everything. Roast 25 minutes.

3. Mix rest of Dijon, syrup, vinegar and thyme. Season pork with salt and pepper then brush marinade all over. Take roasting pan out of oven and place loin between the two rows of fruit and veg. Place back in oven 20 to 25 minutes. The internal temperature of pork should be between 140 and 145 degrees.

4. Take everything out and cover with foil for 10 minutes before slicing the pork and serving.

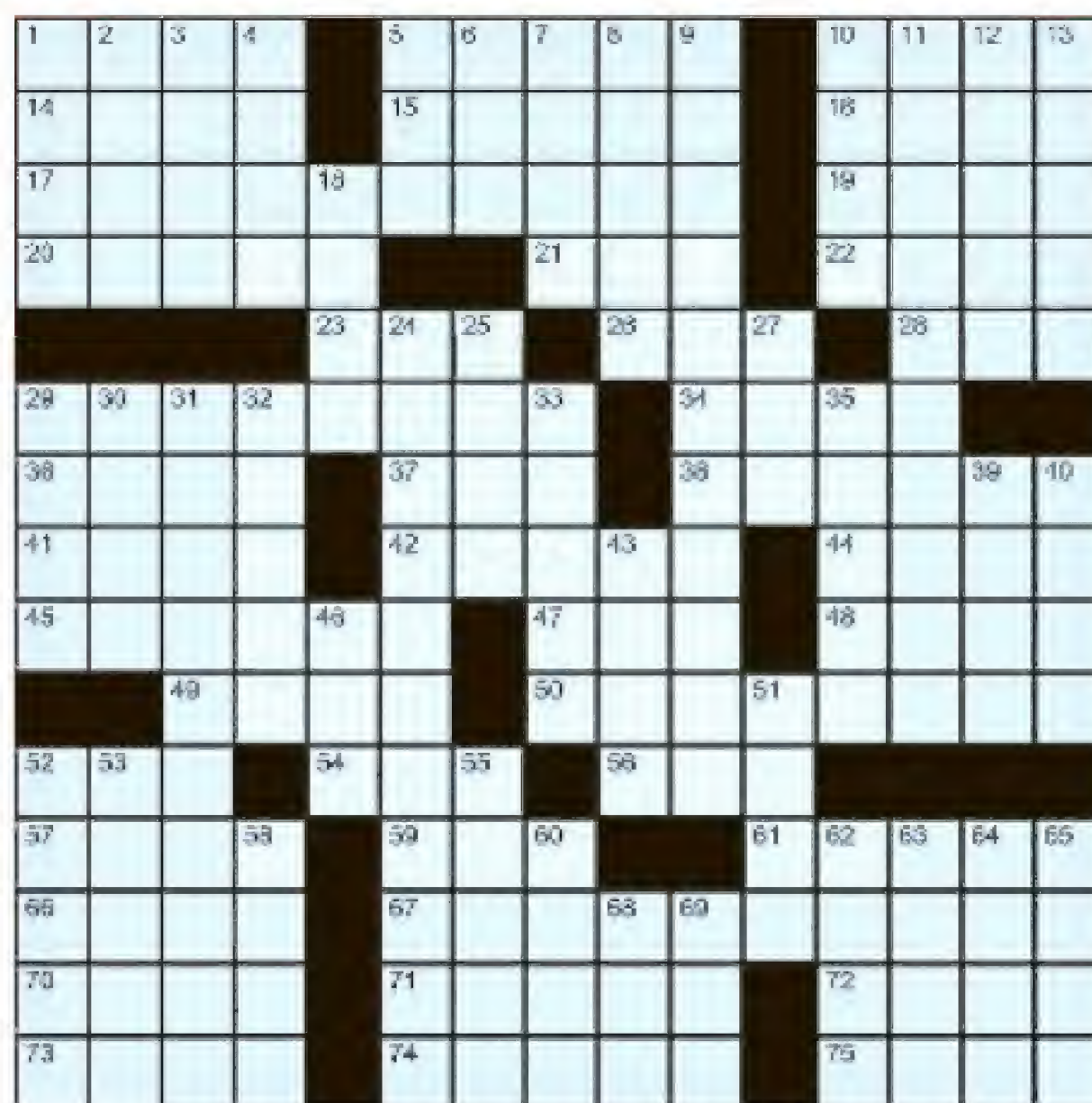
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ACROSS

1. Economist Mr. Greenspan
5. Alberta town just south of Edmonton
10. Loot
14. Singer/song-writer JJ
15. Ancient Greece's lyrical Muse
16. Mr. Gaston, Toronto Blue Jays championship Manager
17. Retro magical TV show featuring the dragon puppet of the title, " _ _ _ "
19. Virginia willow
20. Portrait proper-upper
21. Fido's sound!
22. Gulf War missile
23. Seer's skill, shortly
26. Prefix with 'classical'
28. Some printers, e.g.
29. Star of #17-Across who played The Artful Dodger in "Oliver!" (1968): 2 wds.
34. Mr. Morales
36. "Son of _ _ _"
37. Sonny & Cher
38. Artist-style hats
41. Sly tactic
42. TV star Ed
44. 5th Dimension's " _ _ _ and Away"
45. Lustrous fabric
47. Mining extract
48. 'The Big Easy'
49. Awful smelling
50. It's not pyrite; 2 wds.
52. Offshoot
54. Monogrammed star of "Buffy the



- Vampire Slayer"
56. Caribbean music
57. Smashes
59. The Altar constellation
61. Ancient Greek colony
66. Moonfish
67. Stars grace them

- during awards season: 2 wds.
70. 'Noon' in Montreal
71. Danny Zuko, e.g., in "Grease" (1978)
72. Level
73. Seaport of Yemen
74. Himalayas' fabled

- creatures
75. Fictional detective Mr. Wolfe

DOWN

1. Pine
2. Ms. Flynn Boyle
3. Swiss peaks
4. Art museum in Manhattan, _ Galerie

5. Canadian actor Mr. Carliou
6. Hmmms...
7. Spreadsheet info
8. Motorist's about-face
9. Workday rest period: 2 wds.
10. Friends of 'Fis'
11. Character on

- #17-Across who got around via her Vroom Broom
12. Totally consumed: 2 wds.
13. Provokes
18. Travelled via air
24. The Knofft Brothers from Montreal who produced the live-action/puppetry series at #17-Across: 3 wds.
25. Positive
27. Sugary suffix
29. Jams containers
30. Water, in Seville
31. Bespoke
32. Prepare to pray
33. Giver
35. Go up, _ _ (Step higher on the ladder)
39. Jethro _ (British rock band)
40. WWI fighter plane
43. '70s Spanish hit: " _ Tu"
46. " _ _ " for Edmonton
51. Lion's retreat
52. Roses attraction
53. Swift
55. Loon-like bird
58. _ pads (Hockey gear)
60. Mine entrance
62. Welcoming
63. Ms. Campbell
64. Old road of Rome
65. "It should come _ _ surprise that..."
68. Dernier _ (Latest fashion)
69. Newspaper notices [abbr.]

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Because you are high-viz in the eyes of parents, bosses and VIPs right now, ask for what you want. It will be easier than you think to get people in power to say "yes" to your wishes.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Explore opportunities to travel and get further education, because this is what will expand your world. Expanding your world is what you need to do this month.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It's only natural that your focus is on shared property, inheritances, insurance issues and debt at this time. You have good ideas about these areas.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might have some unexpected insight into your closest relationships with others at this time. In fact, you can learn a lot about your own style of relating if you are aware.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You're willing to work hard now, because you're setting high standards for yourself. No slackers allowed! You want efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You're in touch with your creative vibes now, which is why you will enjoy exploring this energy. Meanwhile, sports events and playful times with children will appeal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your conversations with a parent could be significant now, because there are changes that you are planning at home. You don't like to be caught off guard. You want to know what you're doing.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want to be stimulated by short trips and conversations with others. You're full of ideas and you want to share them; plus, you want to hear what others think.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Cash flow and your assets are a concern right now. When you're making big plans, power is money. The question is, how much power do you have?

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are blessed now because the Sun is in your sign, boosting your energy and bringing opportunities and important people to you. Use this blessing wisely.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It behooves you to work alone or behind the scenes right now. You also might want to plan what you want your new year to be all about.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Friendships are important to you now. Your interaction with someone younger might help you make some future goals.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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